

## MAGNIFICENT ADDRESS

OF HON. W. C. F. BRECKINRIDGE

Before the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia—The Confederate Soldier in Peace His Theme.

The annual meeting of the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia held in the hall of the House of Delegates last evening was a grand occasion for that organization, and fired the hearts of the men who wore the gray as they have not been fired for many a day.

Colonel William C. F. Breckinridge was the speaker of the evening, and fully sustained his reputation as an orator.

### A WARM RECEPTION.

He arrived yesterday on the Chesapeake and Ohio afternoon train, and was met by a committee of the Association, composed of Colonel W. E. Cuthaw, Captain Thomas Ellett and George L. Christian, who escorted him to the Exchange Hotel. His greeting as he entered the hall of the House was enthusiastic and complimentary.

The main floor and galleries were filled in every available space, and hundreds of people were unable to get within the door.

The audience present was composed of the most part of men of prominence and note, and quite a large number of ladies occupied seats.

### OLD VETS PRESENT.

A number of distinguished Confederate officers testified their interest in the Association by attending from a distance, and the speaker uttered found ready and sympathetic ears.

In the absence of General William H. Payne, the president of the Association, General T. L. Rosser presided. General J. A. Early occupied a prominent seat, Governor McKimney sat immediately in front of the speaker, and the following prominent ex-Confederates were scattered about the hall:

Major Robert Stiles, Judge George L. Christian, Mayor Elyson, Colonel John B. Cary, Colonel Thomas A. Brander, Colonel John H. Purnell, Colonel N. V. Randolph, Colonel J. C. McCarthy, Colonel A. W. Archer, Major J. Horace Lacy of Spotsylvania, M. Glennan of Norfolk, Rev. Dr. John Pollard, Rev. Dr. James Nelson, Judge B. R. Wellford, Major Charles S. Stringfellow, Captain John C. Cussons, Frank D. Hill, J. Taylor Stratton, Conway R. Sands, Colonel W. E. Cuthaw, Major John H. Harkness of Staunton, J. H. Caners, W. C. Preston, Judge J. H. Ingram, Captain T. C. Morton, F. H. McGuire, M. S. Quarles and many others.

### DEVOTED PRAYER.

Rev. J. William Jones, D. D., of Atlanta, famous as General Lee's chaplain, who has at each recurrence of these annual meetings offered the opening prayer, again accepted the invitation, and came to Richmond for that purpose. He offered a short, but fervent and appropriate prayer, expressing gratitude for the men who so bravely fought the battles of the South.

### COLONEL BRECKINRIDGE'S ADDRESS.

General Rosser then briefly introduced Colonel Breckinridge as an able defender of the rights of the South, both during the war and since the war.

After standing for some minutes, to await the applause of the audience, Colonel Breckinridge commenced one of the most finished and beautiful orations ever delivered in this historic hall, and for more than an hour held almost breathless interest the large audience present. His speech was more than an oration, and one which defied any correct conception except through a complete report of its eloquent utterances, and even then the ring of the voice, the perfectly modulated tones and the expressive light of the eye of the speaker would be lost to the reader. It was a grand and beautiful effort, worthy of the fame of the orator and the sacrifices of the subject selected. The question as to what constitutes oratory remains unanswered through the centuries, but here, in one man, at least, is found its best reply—the power of the mind over mind and the indescribable music of the voice.

### THE EX-CONFEDERATE IN PEACE.

The ex-Confederate and what he has done in peace was the theme selected, and in its treatment he found room for a complete historic sketch of the South and its people, poetically interwoven with its sentiments and principles, its past and present glories.

The old South, with its institutions, its pride of ancestry, its moral standard and its sense of honor, the relation of master and slave, and these conditions of an old regime almost unknown to a new generation, were pictured as only one can do who has experienced them and has the power of genius to portray them. The old South and the new South, as builded by the Lost Cause, achieved greatness in time of peace under adverse circumstances and without resources, were themes fruitful with beauty of thought and expression.

### COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE OFFICERS.

The chair next announced the election of officers for the ensuing year, and on motion, appointed a committee on nomination to report names for the consideration of the meeting.

The committee was composed of Major N. V. Randolph, Thomas O. Ransom, Professor James White, D. Gardner Tyler and Major Robert Stiles.

### GENERAL EARLY'S REMARKS.

General Early, responding to loud calls, said that the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia was first called together to express sentiments of sorrow at the death of General R. E. Lee, and as one of its main objects was to defend and perpetuate his memory, and that he desired to call attention to a recent statement that General Lee authorized depositions on private property while in Pennsylvania with his army. He pronounced it a vile slander, and said a private soldier who recently gave denial to the report deserved the thanks of every honest Confederate.

Continuing, General Early said that when General Lee crossed the Potomac he issued an order that no individual property should be molested, and that he (General Early) was the only Confederate who destroyed any private property in Pennsylvania.

He then in an amusing manner related the burning of Thad Stevens' Iron Works and the levying of tribute on the town of York for the maintenance of his army, but refuted the many slanders about the destruction of private property by reading extracts from an article written by the Mayor of that place.

### A SENSATION.

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Captain Gordon McCabe responded in splendid style to numerous calls, and made a stirring speech replete with chaste expressions and classical oratory. The effort was of the most spirited character and in every way appropriate to the time and place.

At the close of the meeting Colonel Breckinridge and a few of the visitors and members of the Association were entertained at the Westmoreland Club.

### PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

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## FORD'S HOTEL ON FIRE.

### SLEEPING GUESTS ARE AROUSED.

Thrilling Rescue by Ladders of Firemen. The Fire Escapes Bring Others Safely to Earth—Loss and Insurance.

Ford's Hotel is on fire! The cry passed from mouth to mouth until it had reached almost every section of the city, and everybody who heard it became excited and bolted for the scene of the conflagration, for all knew that the burning of an immense hotel would probably entail a loss of life. It did not take the crowd long to assemble, and a more excited lot of people it is hard to imagine.

The performance at the Theatre was just closing and almost the entire audience was added to the thousands already gathered on Broad, Tenth, Eleventh and Capitol streets. The alarm was turned in from Box 124, Broad-street engine house, at 10:47 o'clock and was followed at 10:50 by a second alarm in the extreme east.

The fire originated in the extreme east end of the kitchen annex on the furnace. Clerk Culligan was passing through one of the halls, as he was about to retire.

He thought that he smelled smoke and on investigation discovered a blaze in that part of the house. He immediately sent the alarm to the engine-house.

### THE FLAMES SPREAD.

The flames spread rapidly and were soon up in the fourth floor of the hotel. Mrs. L. P. Widen and Mrs. M. G. Price, leave to-day on a visit to their parents, in Sullivan county, Mo., to attend a family reunion.

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